

Cultural Trust Evaluation Criteria

Grant funding to:

- Assist the entire state.
- Provide enrichment to the population at large.
- Encourage opportunities for all Montanans to create, participate in and appreciate the wide range of cultural and aesthetic activities regardless of age, sex, race, ethnic origin, income, physical and mental ability, or place of residence.
- Reflect a variety of interests and disciplines and may be highly variable in scope, serving anywhere from local communities or counties, to multi-county regions or the state. Grant awards may range from single sponsors to those that represent coalitions of organizations.
- Fund grants at a range of funding levels. The lowest acceptable grant request for this program is \$1,000. For examples of funding levels, see the link on the website.

Funding recommendations will be based on these considerations:

Quality and Capacity

- Have needs been identified by the group on which the application activities are based?
- Have grant applicants identified needs and addressed how they plan to meet those needs?
- What is the importance to local community/organization or state – as applicable?
- Does the grantee have the technical, artistic and administrative abilities to accomplish the request, within its resource capability, the budget specified and during the grant period (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2013)?
- Does the overall quality, content and style of presentation of the grant application, in tandem with the support materials, provide the committee confidence that this grantee can attain the goals within the grant period (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2013)?
- Is the application creative, innovative, practical or beneficial?
- Based on the nature of the application, is the applicant making efforts to provide accessibility including publicity and taking into consideration Americans with Disabilities Act criteria?
- If the application will affect prehistoric or historic properties, what is the evaluation by the State Historic Preservation Office?
- Is the relative level of local support demonstrated?

Cultural Impact

- How well does the application contribute to, or improve the cultural development of the service area?
- Does the application address an identified need for the establishment or augmentation of an activity or service?

Cost Factors

- Is there a need for the project, operational or capital support?
- Is the application cost-effective? How will the funds be spent? Is the cost reasonable and realistic?
- Is there a mix of revenue sources for the application? If the application is being made by or on behalf of an organization that owns a cultural facility, what is the extent and type of local governmental support (cash match from local sources and/or donation of in-kind goods and services)?
- What is the project's potential to stimulate other sources of funding or to become self-supporting?
- What is the probability the application will be accomplished within budget and with available resources?

Committee Considerations: Committee recommendations to the Legislature, when taken as a whole, will also address these considerations.